

From: Nancy Sherrill
To: dbritton5@nc.rr.com
Date: 4/20/2007 8:53:23 AM
Subject: John Britton

Hello,

Your query was forwarded to me. There are many, many references to John Britton in the various Vigo County histories, but most of the citations are just passing mentions. For instance, he is named as an early settler in Terre Haute, a purchaser of land, the county surveyor, and one of the first members of the First Presbyterian Church. One of the most informative entries is on page 58 of Beckwith's 1880 History of Vigo and Parke Counties in the recollections of Capt. William Earle, the first white child born in Terre Haute:

John Britton was for many years a magistrate, and was esteemed a good one; he also kept the county library. He was a great teacher of mine. He taught me how to guide a horse by hauling on the starboard rein if I wanted to steer right, and hauling on the port if I wished to veer away to the left. He was rather plain in manner and speech. It was said that at a trial before him a man by the name of Leatherman jumped up and exclaimed: "So and so swears to a d---d lie." Squire Britton then, in an excited voice, said, "John Leatherman, I fine you \$5 for swearing, by G-d!" He was very fond of fancy gardening, and "Britton's garden" was a place of great resort thirty-five years ago.

There is a statement on page 63 that "John Britton was appointed first constable of Harrison Township. Among the first accounts allowed by the county commissioners was a bill presented by Mr. Britton for arresting and 'dieting' certain rioters on the 4th and 5th of July, 1818. Mr. Britton was said to be a man of rare accomplishments. He was the first surveyor in the county. He also kept an apothecary's shop."

Many of the references are repeated with variations in the later county histories. We could make copies for 10 cents per page, plus postage, if you are interested. Unfortunately, I didn't find a biographical sketch on John Britton.

There are three early John Britton marriages in Vigo County: John Britton & Harriet Allen on 15 Sept. 1819; John Britton & Ellie Roach on 24 Jan. 1826; and John Britton & Catherine Croy on 27 July 1830. ✓
✓ Cemetery Records of Vigo County, Including All Born Prior to 1830 That Lived to Maturity show John Britton, born 9 Nov. 1799 and died 29 July 1853, and Catherine A. Britton, born 24 April 1809 and died 1 Dec. 1855, as buried in Woodlawn Cemetery. ✓

The 1850 census of Harrison Township, Vigo County, lists a 58 year old John Britton, born in ✓ Pennsylvania, as the county surveyor. His wife was 38 year old Catherine, born in Ohio. The children were Civilla, age 14; Demming, age 10; John, age 7; and Catharine, age 5. All the children were born in Indiana.

Catharine Britton's will is recorded in Will Book 1, page 43. She named a daughter Mary Ashley, daughters Civilla and Catharine Britton, and sons Demming and John Britton. The settlement of her ✓ estate is recorded in Complete Probate Order Book 1, pages 512-523. Apparently John's estate had not been completely settled when Catharine died. There are references to her 1/3 of John's estate. In addition, the children were still young.

It is hard to estimate the cost of copying as there are so many entries in the county histories. I could send the probate record, the marriages, Woodlawn Cemetery record, and some of the county history entries for \$5.00.

Nancy Sherrill
Genealogy Librarian

From: Laura Mitchell
To: Nancy Sherrill
Date: 4/18/2007 9:47:54 AM
Subject: Fwd: John Britton

An SPC or Archives question...

>>> "Dale Britton" <dbritton5@nc.rr.com> 4/17/2007 8:32 PM >>>

My great x 4 uncle, John Britton was an early librarian in Vigo County. Can I research this individual online or through your library web site? Have you suggestions for approaches for researching this individual who lived in the early 1800s? Thank you very much.

Dale Britton
 dbritton5@nc.rr.com

Many entries on John Britton

Beckwith p 33, 58, 63, 88,

Bradley p 348 - marriage & 352 man, 356-man, p 423, 430,
p 462,

Britton, John + Catharine Croy - 27 July 1830 - Chamberlain
 " " + Eliza Roach 24 Jan 1826 - Craft = .60
 " " + Harriet Allen 15 Sept 1819 - Modest

Britton, John b. 9 Nov 1792 d. 29 July 1853 } Woodlawn
 " Catharine G. 24 April 1809 - 1 Dec 1855 } .10

Britton, John - H. Musgrave - Dec 1863
 " " N. Rose - 8 Sept 1856 - Dec 1864

Britton, John - April 1859 - Box 2
 " Catharine - Dec 1864 - Box 4

Complete Probate Order Bk 1859-1864 - Catharine Britton will 9AP
p 512-523 1.40

Probate Order Bk 1, 1853-1858 - p 62, 170
 120, 172

SCHEDULE I.—Free Inhabitants in *Wardens Township* in the County of *Vigo* State
of *Indiana* enumerated by me, on the *16th* day of *Sept* 1850. *James H. Nelson* Ass't Marshal.

Dwellings-house number in the order of valuation.	Family number in the order of valuation.	The Name of every Person whose usual place of abode on the first day of June, 1850, was in this family.	SEX AND AGE.			Profession, Occupation, or Trade of each Male Person over 15 years of age.	Value of Real Estate owned.	Place of Birth. Naming the State, Territory, or Country.	Married within the year.	Attended School within the year.	Whether deaf, dumb, blind, lame, insane, pauper, or servant.
			Age.	Sex.	Color.						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1		Edwin C. Pearson	17	m		Farmer		Indiana		1	
2		Mary C. "	15	f				"		1	
3		Cornelia P. "	13	f				"		1	
4		Ann C. "	11	f				"		1	
501 547		John Britton	58	m		County Surveyor	15000	Pennsylvania			
		Catharine Britton	48	f				Ohio			
7		Levella "	14	f				Indiana		1	
8		Demming P. "	10	m				"		1	
9		John "	7	m				"		1	
10		Catharine "	5	f				"		1	
11	548	Henry Ashley	28	m		Cropper		Vermont	1		
12		Mary J. Ashley	19	f				Indiana			
13 549		William A. Demick	31	m		Cabinet Maker		Pennsylvania			
14		Harriet Demick	23	f				Massachusetts		1	
15		Finnis "	1	m				Indiana			
16 550 551		Pennis Demming	59	m		Farmer	46285	Connecticut			
17		Sarah C. Demming	59	f				Ohio			
18		Pennis "	10	m				Indiana		1	
19		Arthur "	6	m				"		1	
20		Henry "	2	m				"			
21		Margaret Raddell	14	f				Germany			
22		Oliver Ravill	21	f				Ohio			
23 552 553		Henry Plattman	32	m		Boffer H. Keeper	1600	Germany			
24		Ann C. Plattman	27	f				"		1	
25		Charles "	7	m				Indiana		1	
26		Henry "	2	m				"			
27 554 555		Margaret Pickett	44	f				New York			
28		Rachel "	23	f				"			
29		David "	17	m		Labourer		"			
30		Elizabeth "	15	f				" 1800			
31		James "	13	m				"			
32		Cornelia "	6	f				"			
33 556 557		Elizabeth Parsons	30	f			50000	Kentucky			
34		Thomas Parsons	5	m				Indiana			
35		Samuel "	3	m				"			
36		Sarah R. "	1	f				"			
37		William W. "	12	m				"			
38 559 560		Louis F. Pay	25	m		Marine		New York			
39		Harriet E. Pay	21	f				Connecticut			
40		Louis C. "	22	m				New York			
41		Olivia Walton	40	f				New Jersey			
42 561 562		Joseph H. Foster	52	m			5000	Virginia			

From: Nancy Sherrill
To: rusrabajt@msn.com
Date: 5/13/2006 1:22:34 PM
Subject: John Britton

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Hello,

Your query was forwarded to me. Since John Britton was age 58 in 1850, I thought he might have died before 1860. When I checked Woodlawn Cemetery, Terre Haute, Vigo County, Indiana, Index of Burials 1839 through 1899 by Simona Lansaw, I found a 61 year old John Britton who was buried there on 7-29-1853. The age was right, so I think that might have been your man. A 46 year old Catharine Britton was buried in Woodlawn on 12-1-1855, and I wonder if that was John's wife.

The final settlement of John Britton's estate appeared in Probate Order Book 2, April 1858--Dec. 1861, pages 164--168. It does name the widow Catharine, even though I think Catharine was deceased by that time. According to the list of heirs, the Mary J. Ashley, who was living with the Britton family in 1850, was a married daughter. The final settlement of Catharine's estate was recorded in Probate Order Book 3, April 1862--May 1864, pages 271, 272, 318, and 465. Catharine left a will, recorded in Will Book 1, page 43. She named the heirs as Mary Ashley, Civillia Britton, Catharine Britton, Demming Britton, and John Britton.

I also found a marriage for Civillia Britton and William E. Mick on 3 Jan. 1856, Book 1, page 319.

There are many references to John Britton in the various Vigo County histories, although he was often just mentioned in passing as an early settler, purchaser of land, etc. Apparently he held a number of the early county offices. Page 58 of H. W. Beckwith's 1880 History of Vigo and Parke Counties says, "John Britton was for many years a magistrate, and was esteemed a good one; he also kept the county library....He was rather plain in manner and speech. It was said that at a trial before him a man by the name of Leatherman jumped up and exclaimed, 'So and so swears to a d---d lie.' Squire Britton then, in an excited voice, said, 'John Leatherman, I fine you \$5 for swearing, by G--d!' He was very fond of fancy gardening, and 'Britton's garden' was a place of great resort thirty-five years ago." On page 63 I found that "Mr. Britton was said to be a man of rare accomplishments. He was the first surveyor in the county. He also kept an apothecary's shop."

If you would like copies of any of the items mentioned above, our charge is 10 cents per page (15 cents per page for the probate books), plus postage. For \$5.00 we could probably copy most of the material about the Brittons.

Nancy Sherrill
Genealogy Librarian

VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
ONE LIBRARY SQUARE
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA 47807

From: Kerri England
 To: SpC + Web Team
 Date: 5/12/2006 12:27:24 PM
 Subject: Fwd: Data posted to form 1 of http://www.vigo.lib.in.us/ref/ask.htm

An SPC question

>>> <webserver@vigo.lib.in.us> 05/12/06 10:27 AM >>>

rus

rusrabait@msn.com

*Britton, Catharine - 46, buried
 12-1-1855*

Beckwith p 58 + 63

Bradley p 173

Heard 58 on 1850 census

looking for a john britton County Surveyor in 1850 have thim on cences same year but lost after that
 can you give sagestoun ware to look .
 going bald russ

Harrison Top, Vigo Co. 16 Sept 1850
John Britton - 58 - County Surveyor - PA
Catharine = 38 Ohio
Civello = 14 9nd
Dunning P 10 =
John 7 =
Catharine 5 =
Henry Ashley - 28 - Cooper Vermont
Mary J 19 9nd

Britton, Civello + William E. Mick 3 Jan 1856 BR 1 p 319

Britton, Mary J + Henry S. Ashley - 24 April 1850 BR B p 192

Britton, John - estate settled April 1859 Box 2

No index for complete probate book covering

Probate Order BR 2 p 49, 164, 166, 167 Mary Britton April 1859

Catharine 59, 451?

Probate Order BR 3 p 157, 271, 318, 465

BRITTON FAMILY

INDIANA ROOM

PAMPHLET FILE

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Britton Family

Cornelius Britton was with George Washington at Valley Forge. He removed from Hunterden County New Jersey to Lybming County, Pennsylvania, near Williamsport, shortly after the Revolution.

Cornelius Britton married Anna Shamp, daughter of John Mañadira or Malady, Shamp.

Cornelius and Anna Shamp had several children, one was John who married Sarah Workman, they removed from New York State to Paddy's Run, Ohio, and he died at the age of 40.

John and Sarah Britton had among their children, Sarah, Cornelius and John.Jr.

John Jr. was born 1808 and he married Sarah Sparks, their children were:

Mary Royalty

William

Oscar

Susan

Emma

Laura who married John Rose Robinson

Walter

Caroline.

Laura Britton married John R. Robinson, their children were John Rose and Nelle Lydia both have died.

Nelle L. Robinson married John Richardson and they had on son, John Richardson who now lives in Terre Haute

John Richardson lives at 1536 South Center Street, Terre Haute, Ind.

MRS. MARGARET BRITTON
Mrs. Margaret Britton, 82, formerly of Terre Haute, died Tuesday at Indianapolis. Surviving are a son, John Britton, Miami, Fla.; two sisters, Mrs. Joe Davies, Johnson City, Ill., Mrs. Joe Purcell, RR 2, Brazil, and three grandchildren. Services and burial will be at Indianapolis.

My Grandfather was born in Pennsylvania in the Southern part of the state, somewhere between the Yougheoheny and the Monongahela rivers. His name was William Sparks. His father was Captain William Sparks, an Irishman who came to America before the Revolutionary war. He married Rachel Elizabeth Paine, niece of Tom Paine, the writer and Deist of whom so much has been written and said.

I have often heard my Grandfather mention his mother, he said she was very fair, light ~~eyes~~ and blue eyes, she was the mother of three children, William, Isaac and John, I think Grandfather said was the name of the youngest. He was lame and they gave him an education and ~~was~~ he became a school teacher and afterwards went to Kentucky where Grandfather lost track of him. I do not think my great grandfather fought in the Revolutionary war, I do not remember to have heard Grandfather say he did. He belonged to the militia and helped fight the Indians but I think he died before Grandfather was grown, for I have heard Grandfather mention his Mother as a widow.

Simon Girty was raised in the same neighborhood where Grandfather lived. He was a bound boy, would steal everything he could lay hands on. In those days they had public whipping posts for offenders like him, but Col. Crawford would not consent to have him whipped, until he found he could do nothing with him, so he was caught and whipped and immediately after this he ran off and joined the Indians. The events of his subsequent life are set down in history.

When Grandfather was about twenty one he took a trip on the Monangahely and down the Ohio river to the then wilds of Kentucky, where he could gratify his passion for hunting wild game. While there he met Daniel Boone and Simen Kenton. He did not like Simon Kenton, he said he was too rough.

While in Kentucky he bought four hundred acres, of land situated near acreek called Bear grass, and they say it is called Sparks land to this day. The man he bought it of took some cattle in payment and gave him a land bond. He gave Dr. Knight and Col. Crawford the bonds to hold for him. Col. Crawford had emigrated to Kentucky some time before this. While Grandfather and the man who sold the land weree driving the cattle home, they were startled by a slight strange noise in the forest not far from the roadside, the man was for stopping , but Grandfather said "Hurry for your life" its "Indians". They put spurs to their horses and drove the cattle at the top of their speed until they reached the creek. Just about this time Col. Tod, a land surveyor passed them, his horse was running and they saw blood dripping down on the saddle they had heard theshots and knew he was wounded. He tried to say something, they thought he said "Indians "They followed and soon came up with him, he had dismounted and was seated at the foot of a tree stone dead.

After this Col. Crawford fell into the hands of the Indians and was burned at stake. Simon Girty was chief among them, and Col. Crawford appealed to him to save him but he would not.

One day Grandfather was hunting , he came across a camp of Indians among them was a son of Simon Girty, he came up to Grandfather and wanted to trade guns with him, now Grandfather thought a great deal of his rifle , so he shook his head, and gave

him to understand that he would not trade, so he strode up to Grandfather and grabbed his gun to take it from him by force. Grandfather was a great wrestler and as he came up to him he grabbed him by the belt and tripped him, they were on the side of a hill and when he fell he rolled to the bottom. Grandfather said he thought he had got himself into a dangerous mess, but the Indians set up screams of laughter and when Girty got up, he had all the banter taken out of him I used to hear Grandfather tell of a hunt he took with an Eastern man, a Yankee, he called him.

Grandfather could make from the bone of a turkey what he called a deer call, so as the man was crazy to kill a deer, he gave him the caller and they started on their hunt. They separated soon and not long afterwards Grandfather shoot and call and when he found him he was almost frightened to death, he had seated himself in the hollow top of a large fallen tree that had lodged against something that kept it a little was from the ground and was calling deer with all his might when he felt some rotten wood or dirt fall on his head, he looked up and saw a large bear looking over the edge of the log at him. He jumped as far as he could and screamed with all his might, he fired his gun. The bear was frightened as bad as he was and when Grandfather got there it had got clear away.

At the time of the battle of Tippecanoe, Grandfather came with Harrison's army as far as where the city of Indianapolis now is. He said at the time it was one unbroken forest. He did not belong to the army as I understood but joined it to help supply them with game, as he was such a successful hunter, He went back from there I think to Ohio where he joined his brothers, Isaac, who was stationed at some

fort on the Miama. While there he was out hunting one day when the Indians got after him. He started for the fort with the Indians in hot pursuit. On his way to the fort he came to a wide deep gully or ravine. He said he thought to himself "I am lost, I can never jump that gully" but as he stood on the edge he glanced down to the bottom of the ravine and saw two Indians, with their guns pointed up at him just ready to fire. He said he lit on the other side just like a bird and reached the fort in safety. After he got back he challenged his brother Isaac to a foot race. He said he had out run the Indians and now thought he could beat him, although Uncle Isaac had always been the fleestest footed, but Uncle Isaac out ran him, and he had to acknowledge himself defeated. His brother Isaac settled in Ohio some place near Cincinnati and I myself have met and had for a friend one of his descents, Mrs Frank Roseboon. After this Grandfather returned to Pennsylvania and married my Grandmother who with her sister was heir to four hundred acres of land in West Virginia where she was born. Her father whose name was Judkins or Tugins, as Grandfather use to call it. but I think it was Tudkins, was killed by the Indians, his wife sought safety for herself and two daughters in Redstone old fort and while there the oldest daughter Elizabeth had quite an adventure with the Indians. She had gone some distance from the fort to spiee for a family who it seems had not taken refruge in the fort. The man had been out hunting that evening and brought in a duck. The woman had dressed and cooked it, and had supper almost ready, the man was sitting in the doorway singing a hymn when several Indians

appeared they shot the man and he fell dead in the door, they then rushed into the house, knowcked the woman down and scalped her. A child about six months old was sitting on the floor before the fire, they paid no attention to it. Meantime Lizzie had slipped under the bed by the side of which she was spinning on the wheel, she then drew an old pack saddle over her, the more effectually to conceal herself. By the time the Indians had all filed in the house and seating themselves at the table gave frequent voice to their pleasure at the nicely cooked supper. When they had finished their meal they turned their attention to plunder, they tore up the beds ripped open the ticks and threw the feathers and the straw onto the fire, then went out and set the house on fire. The contents of the beds made an awful fire and the baby screamed with pain and fright. The woman who was not dead, only stunned came to and spoke to Lizzie and asked her to bring her the baby, the Indians heard her and one of them came in the room and looked all around but not seeing anyone went out again. Lizzie slipped from under the bed and followed him out of the house. She kept in the shadow of the burning house and away from the Indians until she reached the meadow not far from their house, where the man had a fine young horse. Once there she crawled between two logs where a brush heap had been burned. The Indians wanted the horse and chased him until it was almost day, but could not capture him. They jumped on the logs where Lizzie was concealed many times during the time they were chasing the horse, but did not discover her hiding place. At day light the Indians left. Shortly after a man Lizzie knew came along and she called him and he took her safely back to the fort. Lizzy Tudkins afterwards married a man by the name of Martin, I think, Grandfather said but

but of her or a children after this he did not seem to know much, except that after the death of her first husband she was married a second time, her second husband was old Grandfather Chadwick who lived, at the time Grandfather lived with us, near Mace in this County. Grandfather paid him a visit at that time, but Lizzy had been dead then some years and Grandfather Chadwick was a very old man.

Now I don't know where the events I am about to relate took place, but I think it must have been in Virginia not long after Grandfather was married. His mother and sister had gone to live with him. He lived in a log cabin and the unfinished chimney was just a little above the fireplace. Grandfather's mother when she moved in with them had brought her china dishes with her, of which she was very proud. Grandfather had nailed up some shelves for a cupboard in one corner of the room and his mother had placed her china upon them. Grandfather's dishes were pewter. One night they had all gone to bed and were sleeping when something awakened Grandfather pushing softly against the bed. The fire had been covered and the room was dark but all at once it flashed up and Grandfather saw the whiskers of a huge panther. He was reared up against the bed pushing with his paws as you often have seen a cat. Grandfather was badly frightened and for some moments did not know what to do. It was winter and they had a great many bedclothes on, so he gathered them up and then threw them over the beast then rushing to the fireplace he gathered a large iron poker he had there and commenced pounding it over the head of course the beast was frightened and when it had freed itself from the bedding rushed frantically around the room, it jumped into the cupboard and threw down and broke all of his mother's fine dishes. Meanwhile the women were screaming with

fright not knowing what was the matter ,the panther finely ran under the bed where Grandfather's mother was sleeping and findings a loose plank there slipped through and escaped.Now I do not know whether the event I am about to relate occured at this same place or after they had emigrated to Ohio, but it was the same kind of a chimney any way.Grandfather had gone off on a hunt and left Grandmother with only a little boy to help and protect her. Sometime in the night,I don't remember at what time, they heard a panther scream and then it jumped onto the chimney.They knew it would enter the room as soon as the fir got low, so Grandmother had the boy hand her a clapboard from the loft which she held in the fire until it was blazing, she then held it towards the beast to frighten it away, but it kept screaming and stayed on the roof until daylight and Grandmother had burned all of the boards off of th loft, then he jumped down and trotted off to the forest. Grandfather used to get us children around him of an evening and tell us tese stories of his hunts for bears & deer and other wild animals.Grandfather emigrate d to Ohio in an early day and settled in the Miami valley not far from Cincinnati.He said he remembered when there was but one house with a shingle rood in the town. He nener tried to get possession of his wife's land in Virginia and never went back to see about the land he had nought in Kentucky, he just gave all of his attention to the sport of hunting wild animals.After he had lived here for quite a number of years , my Grandfather died leaving him with quite a large family of children.After some of them were grown and ha d begun to do for themselves,Grandfather married again but the second marriage was not a happy one and after living together some years they seperated and he went to live with his children.I was fourteen when he came to live with us. For some years he went to visit a son and a daughter that lived in the Northern part of the state,Isaac Sparks and Anna Barcus.After visiting them h e returned to us.This was the first time he had ever ridden in the cars and he was delighted with his trip.Not long after this he went to a son living near Clarmont,just this side of Indianapolis where de died. He must have been at this time near eighty.

Mary Britton Royalty

probably Mary Royalty Britton

MARRIAGES

John W. Britton	Married Aug. 12,
Sarah Sparks	
Oscar F. Britton	Married May 6th 1869
Lizzie Galvin	
A. Z. Royalty	Married Jan. 20 1869
Mary Britton	
William P. Britton	Married Sept. 9th 1868
Elizabeth Johnson	
H. E. Sidener	Married Dec. 31, 1862
Susan H. Britton	
John R. Robinson	Married Sept. 7th 1870
Annie L. Britton	
Harry Palmer	Married Dec. 24th 1877
Sarah C. Britton	

BIRTHS

John W. Britton	Born Nov. 20th 1809
Sarah Britton	Born Aug. 1st 1814
Mary Britton	Born Oct. 19th 1833
William P. Britton	Born June 11th 1835
Oscar F. Britton	Born Jan. 19th 1838
Susan H. Britton	Born March 6th 1840
Emma Britton	Born Dec. 18th 1843
Annie Laurie Britton	" Sept. 24th 1849
Walter S. Britton	Born Feb. 29th 1852
Sarah C. Britton	Born Nov. 24th 1858

DEATHS

Emma Britton	Died Oct. 17th 1877
John W. Britton	Died April 5th 1883
Sarah Britton	Died Sept. 3rd 1892
Susie Sidener	Died Jan 11, 1894

COPY

From sheet of paper found in Robinson Family Bible.

MARRIAGES

(Capt. Fearson March 25, 1756. Died January 1838)

William Robinson &
Lydia Fearson

John Rose Robinson
Mary Robinson

John Rose Robinson
Anna Laura Britton Sept. 7th 1870

John Marshall Richardson
Nell Lydia Robinson Oct. 30th 1909

BIRTHS

John Rose Robinson Sr.
John Rose Robinson Jr. Dec. 4th 1848
John Rose Robinson Jr.Jr. June 12th 1871
Nelle Lydia Robinson Nov. 1st 1880
Anna Laura Britton
Wife of R.R. Jr. Sept. 24th 1849
John Marshall Richardson
Husband of N.L.R. Feb. 19th 1873

DEATHS

John Rose Robinson Sr. April 7th 1881
John Robinson Jr. January 12 1913
John Rose Robinson Jr. Jr. Oct. 27th 1889

COPY

From the Robinson Family Bible